

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 15-34 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-14 have been canceled by this amendment, and claims 15-34 have been added as new claims. No new matter has been added.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. By this amendment, Applicants have amended the title in a manner to overcome this objection. In addition, Applicants note that a minor change has been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that each of new claims 15-34 incorporates the allowable subject matter of at least one of allowable claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 15-34 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. For the Examiner's reference, Applicants note that the correspondence between the new claims and the original claims is as follows:

New claim 15 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 4;

New claim 16 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 5;

New claim 17 depends from claim 16 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 6;

New claim 18 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 1, claim 7, and the allowable subject matter of claim 8;

New claim 19 depends from claim 18 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 9;

New claim 20 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 11;

New claim 21 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 12 and the allowable subject matter of claim 4;

New claim 22 depends from claim 21 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 13;

New claim 23 depends from claim 21 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 14;

New claim 24 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 12 and the allowable subject matter of claim 5;

New claim 25 depends from claim 24 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 6;

New claim 26 depends from claim 24 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 13;

New claim 27 depends from claim 24 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 14;

New claim 28 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 12, claim 7, and the allowable subject matter of claim 8;

New claim 29 depends from claim 28 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 9;
New claim 30 depends from claim 28 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 13;
New claim 31 depends from claim 28 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 14;
New claim 32 is an independent claim and incorporates the subject matter of claim 12
and the allowable subject matter of claim 11;

New claim 33 depends from claim 32 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 13;
and

New claim 34 depends from claim 32 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 14.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (U.S. 5,351,148) in view of Wu et al. (U.S. 6,134,273); and claims 2, 12, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Wu, and further in view of Wei (U.S. 5,243,629). As discussed above, claims 1-14 have been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering the above-noted rejections moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshihiko YASUE et al.

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/jjv
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 8, 2007